

## Collaboration welcomes 14th Cochrane Centre



Members of the Centre Cochrane Français from top to bottom: Philippe Ravaud, Director; Ludovic Trinquart, Statistician; Pierre Durieux, Scientific Director; Isabelle Boutron, Senior Researcher; Juliane Ried, Administrative Director; Daniella Narece, Secretary; Agnès Dechartres, Research Officer; Ellis Chan, Research Officer.

On behalf of the Collaboration, the Steering Group is delighted to welcome the recently registered French Cochrane Centre, situated in the heart of Paris. The overall mission of the Centre (Centre Cochrane Français) will be to foster evidence-based healthcare decision-making by promoting the awareness, appreciation, distribution and use of Cochrane reviews; and by identifying and supporting individuals in France and in French-speaking countries who wish to be involved in The Cochrane Collaboration.

The Centre is directed by Professor Philippe Ravaud and Dr Pierre Durieux, from Université Paris Descartes. Both have been active contributors to the Collaboration for some time, Philippe as a member of

the Patient-Reported Outcomes Methods Group, and Pierre as an author for the Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Review Group.

Of the Centre's registration, Philippe says, "We are very pleased that a centre in France has been officially reinstated within The Cochrane Collaboration after a long absence. The anticipation and expectations of French involvement expressed by colleagues in the Collaboration have taken us by surprise, but are also very reassuring, and we are truly grateful for the confidence that is being placed in our team. We know that the most difficult tasks lie ahead, but we will do our best to rise to the challenges for all francophone countries. Maintenant il faut bosser (Now – to work)!"

Pierre shares Philippe's enthusiasm, saying, "The creation of the French Cochrane Centre will be an incredible opportunity for the development and reinforcement of evidence-based health care in France and French-speaking countries."

The Centre will be funded principally by the Ministère de la Santé et des Sports, with support from Université Paris Descartes, L'École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique and L'Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris, and in partnership with La Haute Autorité de Santé and L'Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale.

*Juliane Ried*  
Centre Cochrane Français  
[juliane.ried@htd.aphp.fr](mailto:juliane.ried@htd.aphp.fr)

*Lucie Jones*  
The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat  
[ljones@cochrane.org](mailto:ljones@cochrane.org)

## The new [cochrane.org](http://cochrane.org): What it means for you

### Background

The Cochrane Collaboration's website, [cochrane.org](http://cochrane.org), has two user groups: visitors to The Cochrane Collaboration and contributors to the Collaboration (those with Archie accounts). This is reflected in the development of the new site, which was launched in March this year. It is divided into public and internal/logged-in areas, the latter for Collaboration contributors only, to facilitate better navigation for both user

*Continued on page 2*

### IN THIS ISSUE

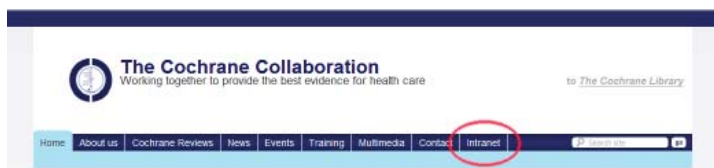
14th Cochrane Centre.....	1	Cochrane Canada increases trainers.....	4	Finnair discontinues sale of EMRs.....	7
The new <a href="http://cochrane.org">cochrane.org</a> .....	1	'Cochrane Professor' in Denmark.....	5	Steering Group renames sub-groups.....	8
New WHO Collaborating Centre.....	3	Cochranite receives prestigious award.....	5	Methods Groups' email changes.....	8
CCC and PAHO sign MOU.....	3	MaRC update.....	6	Behavioral Medicine Field Deregistered...	8
International register of ongoing systematic reviews.....	4	Bill Silverman Prize.....	6	Collaboration's impact and value.....	8
Systematic review training in India and Bangladesh.....	4	Steering Group Elections.....	6	Expression of Interest - CMSG Satellite...	9
		QRMG announcements.....	7	Advisory groups are now committees.....	9
		Meet our Funders.....	7	Announcements and events.....	10

Continued from page 1

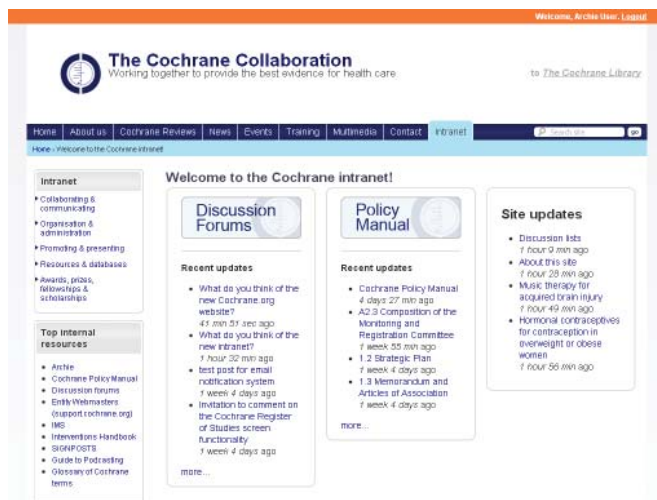
groups.

The focus of the launch in March was to provide a simpler, more user-friendly experience for all users and, in particular, external visitors to the Collaboration. We revamped core content ('About us', 'Cochrane Reviews' and other pages) and improved the site's navigation. The branding is complementary to that of *The Cochrane Library* site, with a prominent link to it in the right header. Although there are many ideas yet to incorporate in the public area of the site, we are now turning our focus to the internal, Archie-authenticated area, which represents the initial development of a Collaboration intranet. The launch of the new cochrane.org was, in many ways, just the beginning for development of new content, especially for the internal, logged-in version of the site. The new Content Management System (CMS) (the 'back-end' of the website) allows more people to contribute and develop content, including managing features like 'Discussion Forums'. Taking full advantage of the new features will require a shift in the way we all interact with our website, and the Web Team is very keen to work with contributors to provide the knowledge to allow them to take over responsibility for their own 'areas' of the site.

To access the internal area of cochrane.org, click the 'Intranet' tab on the far right of the homepage, in the top navigation menu:



You are then redirected to/from Archie for authentication and returned to the cochrane.org homepage of the intranet.



These discussion forums offer an efficient alternative to email discussion lists as they provide all posts and replies in one place. We invite you to log in and join the discussion! These forums only work when users are engaged and willing to share their thoughts and opinions. If you have a suggestion for a Discussion Forum, please email us at [web@cochrane.org](mailto:web@cochrane.org).

## Future developments and feedback

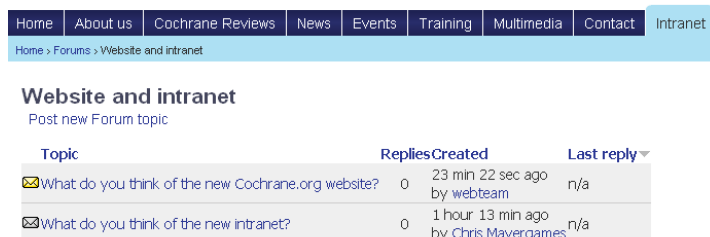
### Public site

Our hope is that cochrane.org will remain dynamic and evolve to meet

the needs of all its users, internal and external. Future development plans include a homepage features box of impact stories (how Cochrane reviews have impacted health care), special events, and a spotlight on individual Cochrane groups.

### Intranet

For the new intranet, we plan to add more Discussion Forums, continue development of core resources, complete an overhaul of training resources (spinning training off into its own website: [training.cochrane.org](http://training.cochrane.org)) and more. We'd love to hear your suggestions or comments for the new intranet or the site generally! Log in to cochrane.org now and join the discussion! There is a Discussion Forum area called 'Website and intranet' where you can post your suggestions, criticisms and thoughts. You are, of course, always welcome to email us at [web@cochrane.org](mailto:web@cochrane.org).



### Keystone activities

As usual, the Web Team will have a booth at the Cochrane Colloquium where we will conduct intranet user testing, as well as other outreach and training activities. Look for an email in a few months asking you to sign up for an appointment for user testing in Keystone – you could win an iPod Shuffle!

In addition to the booth, the Web Team will offer a workshop on the new Cochrane intranet as well as a workshop on using the CMS, Drupal, to manage your entity's website. A workshop on creating podcasts (audio summaries) of Cochrane Reviews will also be offered.

Chris Mavergames  
Cochrane Web Team  
[mavergames@cochrane.de](mailto:mavergames@cochrane.de)



The Webteam from left to right: Caroline Mavergames, Georg Koch, Chris Mavergames, Evgenia Slavianova and Martin Janczyk (not pictured, Nancy Owens).

The Cochrane Collaboration Web Team is based in Freiburg, Germany (with additional staff in Kansas, USA) and is responsible for cochrane.org and more than 70 entity websites as well as assisting in the maintenance of the Collaboration's other web presences including Facebook, Twitter, Podcasts (iTunes), LinkedIn, YouTube and others. More information about the Web Team is available at [cochrane.org/about-site](http://cochrane.org/about-site).

# World Health Organization designates Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine a WHO Collaborating Centre

The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) has been designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Evidence Synthesis for Infectious and Tropical Diseases by the World Health Organization (WHO), in consultation with the UK Government. This is official recognition of the extensive collaboration that already exists between the LSTM and the Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group, whose editorial base is located at the LSTM, and the WHO.

"This designation firmly establishes LSTM as a reference centre for WHO in bringing together the best available research evidence on infectious tropical diseases," said Dr Hans Hogerzeil, Director of Essential Medicines and Pharmaceutical Policies at WHO. "LSTM has made valuable contributions to the WHO Model List of Essential medicines and the recently released malaria treatment guidelines. We look forward to our continued collaboration as we work towards better quality, safety, and use of medicines."

The Infectious Diseases Group will support WHO in developing recommendations for health care policy, developing guidelines for the management of infectious diseases, organising training in research methods and assisting in the communication of research results to policy makers, clinicians, teachers and the public in developing countries.

Professor Paul Garner, Co-ordinating Editor of the Infectious Diseases Group and head of the new Centre said, "We are really delighted to have been designated a WHO Collaborating Centre. This will allow us to build further on our existing work with WHO – part of which is to provide top quality health evidence in the form of research synthesis to assist with work in developing countries and to contribute towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals."

The LSTM joins 800 existing institutions in over 80 countries in forming collaborative networks that can support the WHO

at regional, national and global levels. WHO Collaborating Centres also provide information, services, research and training to strengthen country resources in national health development.

- For more information on the Infectious Diseases Group: [cidg.cochrane.org/welcome](http://cidg.cochrane.org/welcome)
- Further information about WHO Collaborating Centres: [who.int/collaboratingcentres/en/](http://who.int/collaboratingcentres/en/)
- WHO Malaria Guidelines (2nd Edition): [research4development.info/news.asp?ArticleID=50604](http://research4development.info/news.asp?ArticleID=50604)

*Bridget Jones  
Infectious Diseases Group  
bridget.jones@liverpool.ac.uk*

# Canadian Cochrane Centre and PAHO/WHO sign Memorandum of Understanding

The Canadian Cochrane Centre (CCC) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in March 2010 which outlined key activities that

will allow health researchers, and others working in the health field across the Americas, access to opportunities to improve research skills and integrate research evidence into health

care policy and clinical practice.

For PAHO's Member States, most of whom already benefit from universal access to *The Cochrane Library*, this agreement will address their identified need to better link research evidence with policy and practice. The agreement allows the CCC the opportunity to further its mission of promoting the use of Cochrane reviews in evidence-based decision making. The CCC and PAHO will work together to implement training initiatives for users and producers of systematic reviews in the Americas. PAHO is a Regional Office of the World Health Organization.

The webinars are co-ordinated by the CCC and delivered through internet-based platforms with the support of PAHO. Anyone worldwide can attend a live webinar (subject to time shift) or view the recordings which are now available directly from the CCC website and are not password protected – available at your convenience! Visit [ccc.cochrane.org/cochrane-canada-live-webinar-archive](http://ccc.cochrane.org/cochrane-canada-live-webinar-archive). The next webinar series will start in September 2010.

*Mary Ellen Schaafsma  
mschaafs@uottawa.ca*

*Adrienne Stevens  
astevens@uottawa.ca*

*Lori Tarbett  
ltarbett@uottawa.ca*

*The Canadian Cochrane Centre*

Dr Yoon Loke's webinar on [ccc.cochrane.org](http://ccc.cochrane.org)

## International register of ongoing systematic reviews

In response to growing concern about reporting biases, and advocacy of registration for systematic reviews, the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) is leading an initiative to establish an international register of ongoing systematic reviews. The register will use the existing IT platform and infrastructure that supports production and provision of the CRD databases, and work in a similar way to clinical trials registers, allowing researchers to record key features of their systematic reviews prospectively.

The web-based register will offer free public access, be electronically searchable and open to all prospective registrants. Registration will require a minimum data set, which is currently being formulated through an international Delphi consensus exercise. The completeness of the information supplied will be ensured before registration. Accepted protocol details will be loaded on

the database as a permanent entry and a unique identification number will be issued. A public audit trail for amendments and updates to the information will be available and links to resulting publications will be added. Registration will be free of charge. Details of the background and development of the register have been published in *The Lancet*.<sup>[1]</sup>

The register, to be launched later this year, will offer a free, simple, user-friendly registration process on a proven and appropriate open access platform that is easily searchable. We believe the register will promote research transparency, reduce the potential for bias and should lead to improved quality of systematic reviews and the decisions that rely upon them. It should also help avoid duplication and support the efficient use of research funding.

For further information, visit

[york.ac.uk/inst/crd/projects/register.htm](http://york.ac.uk/inst/crd/projects/register.htm) or contact Alison.

[1] Booth A, Clarke M, Gherzi D, Moher D, Petticrew M, Stewart L. An international registry of systematic review protocols. *The Lancet*, Early Online Publication, 13 July 2010: [thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)60903-8/fulltext](http://thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)60903-8/fulltext)

*Alison Booth and Lesley Stewart, Centre for Reviews and Dissemination*  
[ab42@york.ac.uk](mailto:ab42@york.ac.uk)

*Mike Clarke, UK Cochrane Centre*  
[mclarke@cochrane.ac.uk](mailto:mclarke@cochrane.ac.uk)

*Davina Gherzi, International Clinical Trials Registry Platform, WHO*  
[ghersid@who.int](mailto:ghersid@who.int)

*David Moher, Bias Methods Group*  
[dmoher@obri.ca](mailto:dmoher@obri.ca)

*Mark Petticrew, Campbell and Cochrane Equity Methods Group*  
[Mark.Petticrew@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:Mark.Petticrew@lshtm.ac.uk)

## SASIANCC extends training in systematic reviews in India and Bangladesh

The South Asian Cochrane Network and Centre (SASIANCC) is extending the reach of its extensive training program designed to build capacity in conducting systematic reviews and practising evidence-informed health care. The training programs most often take place at the Christian Medical College in Vellore but during June, Dr Dave Sinclair, Infectious Diseases Group Editor and Visiting Adjunct Fellow at the Centre, led workshops in Mumbai, India, and in Dhaka, Bangladesh, supported by Cochrane affiliated staff. Targeted at researchers and healthcare providers, this series of training programs is an example of the commitment of The Cochrane Collaboration and the Effective Health Care Research Consortium to strengthen the capacity and numbers of authors and editors in South Asia able to conduct systematic reviews. In turn, this feeds into the increasing demand for development and health decisions to be based on the available evidence.

Professor Prathap Tharyan, Director of the SASIANCC, said, "We are really pleased that Dr Sinclair has taken our training workshops to other parts of India and to Bangladesh. We have been running these workshops on different aspects of evidence-informed

health care in different formats, from short presentations to one-day events and more detailed systematic reviews protocol development and review completion workshops since 2004, and so far over 3,500 people have participated in these programs."

The Effective Health Care Research Consortium is an international group (incorporating the Infectious Diseases Group) that advances the mission of The Cochrane Collaboration to get reliable research evidence prepared and used to improve health and health care in low- and middle-income countries.

For more information on the Effective Health Care Research Consortium and the Infectious Diseases Group: [liv.ac.uk/evidence/index.htm](http://liv.ac.uk/evidence/index.htm)

For more information on the South Asian Cochrane Network and Centre training program: [cochrane-sacn.org/](http://cochrane-sacn.org/)

*Prathap Tharyan*  
*South Asian Cochrane Network and Centre*  
[prathap@cmcvellore.ac.in](mailto:prathap@cmcvellore.ac.in)

## Cochrane Canada increases pool of qualified trainers

Cochrane Canada has doubled the number of Canadian authors to over 1,300 in the past five years. In addition to registered Cochrane entities, Cochrane Canada has established a network of 18 regional sites whose functions include promoting The Collaboration and co-ordinating training events. To increase our pool of qualified Cochrane trainers across Canada, Cochrane Canada has held three train the trainer events.

Two workshops were held to build capacity for teaching statistics and meta-analysis. In December 2009, Dr George Tomlinson (Statistical Editor, Back Group) led the first workshop for four trainers at the Dalhousie Cochrane Site. This event was co-ordinated by Dr Jill Hayden, Principal Investigator for the Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre.

In May 2010, Dr Joseph Beyene (Co-Convenor, Statistical Methods Group) led the second workshop for five trainers from across Canada. This event was co-ordinated by the Canadian Cochrane Centre and held in conjunction with the 8th Annual Canadian Cochrane Symposium in Ottawa.

A two-day workshop was held by the

*Continued on page 5*

Continued from page 4



Cochrane Canada's Train the Trainer for author training, June 2010.

Canadian Cochrane Centre in June 2010 to build capacity to teach the remaining Cochrane author training workshop topics. Eleven participants from across Canada assembled in Ottawa and were led by Dr Jeremy Grimshaw, Adrienne Stevens, Nancy Santesso, Kristian Thorlund, David Moher, Beverley Shea, Lucy Turner, and Alain Mayhew. In addition to covering Cochrane content and editorial processes, a practical session on teaching pedagogy and the role of the trainer was conducted by the University of Ottawa's Centre for University Teaching.

Cochrane Canada looks forward to accomplishing the training goals we've set for the next five years. For Canadian authors seeking training, feel free to contact the Canadian Cochrane Centre at [cochrane@uottawa.ca](mailto:cochrane@uottawa.ca).

*Adrienne Stevens*  
Canadian Cochrane Centre  
[astevens@uottawa.ca](mailto:astevens@uottawa.ca)

## 'Cochrane Professor' appointed in Denmark



Peter C Gøtzsche, Director, Nordic Cochrane Centre

Peter C Gøtzsche, Director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre, has become the first Professor of Clinical Research Design and Analysis at the Department of Surgery and Internal Medicine at the University of Copenhagen. Although the post was advertised and could therefore be sought

by others, it reflects the University's interest in drawing on Peter's qualifications in this area, and given this background, we feel it accurate to refer to it as appointment of a 'Cochrane Professor', and to announce it as such. We see it as an academic recognition at the highest level of the important work of The Cochrane Collaboration.

On his new appointment, Peter says, "I am very pleased that my University has appointed me as Professor of Clinical Research Design and Analysis, knowing that I am one of the strongest critics of the methods the drug industry uses in its clinical research. I will continue to advocate for independent clinical trials and for full access to trial protocols, raw data, and unpublished

trial reports.

"I will also work for ensuring academic freedom when researchers collaborate with the drug industry or do commissioned research for public funds. I feel very strongly that patients deserve nothing less than this; in fact, the current tradition of secrecy and selective reporting is unethical and in violation of the Helsinki Declaration."

*Lucie Jones*  
The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat  
[ljones@cochrane.org](mailto:ljones@cochrane.org)

## Julian Higgins receives Campbell Collaboration's Frederick Mosteller Award

Julian Higgins, Methods Group representative on The Cochrane Collaboration's Steering Group and Senior Statistician at the MRC Biostatistics Unit

in Cambridge, UK, has been awarded the Campbell Collaboration's Frederick Mosteller Award for Distinctive Contributions to Systematic Reviewing.

Cochrane Collaborations, in Keystone, USA, in October.

Arild Bjørndal, Co-chair of the Campbell Collaboration's Steering Group, says, "It is very appropriate that The Campbell Collaboration will honour Julian Higgins at the first Colloquium to be co-hosted with The Cochrane Collaboration. Julian has worked both theoretically and practically to improve the methodological quality of systematic reviews. In that work the boundaries between the two Collaborations are insignificant; Campbell has learned a tremendous lot from Julian and the Cochrane effort."

*Lucie Jones*  
Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat  
[ljones@cochrane.org](mailto:ljones@cochrane.org)



Julian Higgins, Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group

Julian is an active contributor to both The Campbell and Cochrane Collaborations, and is co-editor of the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*, the official document that describes in detail the process of preparing and maintaining Cochrane systematic reviews on the effects of healthcare interventions. About the accolade, Julian says, "I am surprised, flattered and delighted to have been chosen for this award. Fred Mosteller was a great statistician, and to have my name associated with him in this way is a huge honour."

Julian will be presented with his award at the first joint Colloquium of The Campbell and

## Monitoring and Registration Committee update

The Monitoring and Registration Committee (MaRC), previously known as the Monitoring and Registration Group, held its most recent meeting in Helsinki in June. We attended at the invitation of Jos Verbeek, a Field representative on the MaRC and Convenor of the Occupational Health Field, which is located at the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health. We extend our thanks to Jos for his wonderful hospitality during our stay, including an evening in a log cabin with sauna on the shores of the Baltic Sea!

We said goodbye in person to Rob Scholten and Zbys Fedorowicz, although they officially stay on until October 2010 at which time they step down from the MaRC and Steering Group as representatives of Centres and CRGs respectively. We extend our heartfelt thanks to both for their six years of enormous contributions. All other representatives will continue on the MaRC at least until 2011. David Tovey joined the meeting by teleconference. He provided an update on the activities of the Cochrane Editorial Unit (CEU) and discussion took place about how best to avoid duplication between the CEU and the MaRC.

As well as conducting our core business of reviewing the sustainability and progress of each of the entities due for monitoring this year (Fields, Methods Groups and Centres), we discussed in detail the future direction and membership of the Committee; processes involving entity Executives in the monitoring process, including who should define the data to be monitored; and moving towards an electronic system of monitoring.

A major area of discussion was the implementation of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Centres and Methods Groups have developed KPIs and Fields are in the process of reviewing their core functions to identify KPIs that can be measured and reported on. It is anticipated that KPIs for CRGs will be developed by David Tovey and the CRG Executives in consultation with the MaRC.

This year saw the first of Cochrane groups (the Methods Groups) reporting on their elected, as well as mandatory, core functions. Moving in this direction has involved an enormous amount of work and we

particularly thank Ian Shemilt, the Methods' Executive and the members of Methods Groups for engaging in this process. It is building on the work of the Strategic Review and is an important move forward for the Collaboration.

Finally, thank you to all who contribute to and participate in the monitoring process; whilst at times it can be onerous, it is essential.

Your MaRC representatives are: Zbys Fedorowicz (CRG at large - until October 2010); Karen New (author and Co-Convenor); Joy Oliver (Centres); Ian Shemilt (Methods Groups); Rob Scholten (Centres - until October 2010); Marian Showell (TSCs); Nicole Skoetz (MEs); Jos Verbeek (Fields); Jason Wasiak (Fields); Liz Whamond (Consumers) and Hans van der Wouden (CRG at large). Any of these people would be pleased to answer your questions about the MaRC (please email Claire Allen at [callen@cochrane.org](mailto:callen@cochrane.org)).

*Karen New and Hans van der Wouden  
Monitoring and Registration Committee  
[karennew@optusnet.com.au](mailto:karennew@optusnet.com.au)*

## The Bill Silverman Prize

William (Bill) Silverman (1924-2004) was one of the founders of American neonatal medicine. He was honoured repeatedly as one of the pioneers in his specialty; however, he often evoked somewhat mixed responses amongst his colleagues because he was in the habit of raising troubling questions about the scientific basis and ethics of his and their practices. Like many of the people who have helped establish The Cochrane Collaboration, Bill Silverman could be regarded as a 'troublemaker'. As he reiterated frequently, however, criticism is a form of troublemaking that can help drive progress. Furthermore, criticism should not be limited to examining the work of others, but should also include self-criticism.

The Bill Silverman Prize acknowledges explicitly the value of criticism of The Cochrane Collaboration, with a view to helping improve its work, and thus achieve its aim of helping people make well-informed decisions about health care by providing the best possible evidence on the effects of healthcare interventions. The establishment of the Prize was approved by The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group in 2007, and awarded for the first time in 2008.

The Prize is offered annually and the authors of a piece of research published or presented in the preceding twelve months (1 July to 30 June) are eligible. The criteria for the Prize are

that the publication or presentation evaluate any aspect of the preparation, maintenance or dissemination of Cochrane reviews or the work of The Cochrane Collaboration more generally, and: is of high quality, is accompanied by constructive suggestions on how the relevant aspects of the work of The Cochrane Collaboration could be improved, and has, or is likely to have, a positive impact on the scientific quality, relevance and use of Cochrane reviews.

**Note:** This Prize is not for the preparation of a Cochrane systematic review; rather, it is for a piece of published or presented research which demonstrates critical thinking, either about systematic reviews or about the work of The Cochrane Collaboration more generally. The Prize recipients are announced at the Cochrane Colloquium each year. The prize comprises a cash award of 1,000 US dollars and a certificate (additional funds are not available from the prize fund for the recipients to attend the Cochrane Colloquium). The cash award goes to the corresponding author of the selected publication or presentation, and it is this person's responsibility to distribute the award in a fair way to her/his co-authors.

## Nominations

Nominations can be made by anyone, including the authors of the publication or presentation being nominated. Nominations should be emailed to the committee co-chairs (see below) with 'Bill Silverman Prize' in the subject heading, the citation for the publication or presentation, and a brief explanation of how it meets the criteria for the Prize. Nominations must be accompanied by the publication or presentation. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 31 August 2010. The nominations should be sent to [secretariat@cochrane.org](mailto:secretariat@cochrane.org).

*Cindy Farquhar  
Menstrual Disorders and Subfertility Group  
[c.farquhar@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:c.farquhar@auckland.ac.nz)*

## Steering Group Elections

Katrina Williams and Liz Whamond were both re-elected unopposed and will continue to represent Fields and the Consumer Network respectively, for three years (until October 2013) on The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group. The election results will be made official at the Keystone Colloquium, 20 October 2010.

## Qualitative Research Methods Group announcements

Are you developing a Cochrane protocol in which your effectiveness question may be informed by qualitative research? The Qualitative Research Methods Group (QRMG) guidance for question formulation is being reviewed by the Steering Group, and you can access it on our website [joannabriggs.edu.au/cqrmg/tools.html](http://joannabriggs.edu.au/cqrmg/tools.html). Click on 'Using qualitative research to frame effectiveness questions'.

The guidance will be presented as part of the next Evidence Synthesis of Qualitative Research in Europe (ESQUIRE) Workshop, to be held in Sheffield, U.K., 7-9 September 2010: [shef.ac.uk/scharr/shortcourseunit/courses\\_new/esquiresept10.html](http://shef.ac.uk/scharr/shortcourseunit/courses_new/esquiresept10.html).

This course, involving three of the Co-Convenors of the Qualitative Methods Group and Faculty from the School of Health and Related Research (SchHARR), will follow the systematic review process as it applies, and is adapted to, qualitative evidence syntheses. The Program Faculty will take participants through the stages of defining and exploring scope, conducting literature searches, quality assessing studies for inclusion, synthesising data and writing up and presenting the product of the synthesis. Participants will be provided with practical experience of key stages in the review process.

The course will conclude on 9 September with Issues and Challenges for Qualitative Research in Evidence Synthesis (InCQuiRES), a one-day methodological update providing an excellent overview of current developments in qualitative evidence synthesis. Those interested can book on the INCQUIRES update separately [shef.ac.uk/scharr/shortcourseunit/courses\\_new/esquiresept10.html](http://shef.ac.uk/scharr/shortcourseunit/courses_new/esquiresept10.html). This methodological update will rehearse the major issues and challenges for the main steps of the systematic review process as it applies, and is adapted to, qualitative evidence syntheses. The Presenters, drawn from the Qualitative Research Methods Group and involved in producing methodological guidance, will examine the specific challenges as they take participants through the stages of defining and exploring scope, conducting literature searches, quality assessing studies for inclusion, synthesizing data and writing up and presenting the product of the synthesis.

The new guidance will also be presented at the joint Cochrane/Campbell Colloquium in Keystone, Colorado.

A three-day systematic review course was organized in Leuven, Belgium (3-5 June 2010), including a full day on methods of qualitative evidence synthesis. Thanks to the Belgian Campbell Group for hosting this event, which attracted researchers and

practitioners from at least five different countries. We are looking forward to participating in the June 2011 edition of the course.

The work of the QRMG will also be presented in a poster session on the conference organised by the educational effectiveness special interest group from the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction. The event takes place 25-27 August 2010 and this year's focus is on Models, Methods and Applications. The aims of the QRMG contribution entitled 'Beyond effectiveness: the (potential) contribution of qualitative evidence to effectiveness reviews' are:

1. to present the results of a review on published qualitative evidence syntheses in public health literature,
2. to provide an overview of the different methodologies of qualitative evidence syntheses that have been developed in the last few years, and
3. to outline ways in which findings from qualitative research might be used to inform, enhance, extend and supplement effectiveness reviews.

*Karin Hannes  
Qualitative Research Methods Group  
Karin.Hannes@med.kuleuven.be*

## Meet our Funders

The updated list of the Collaboration's entity funders is now available on [cochrane.org](http://cochrane.org).

Our funders include the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, who recently awarded Cochrane Canada \$9.6 million CAD to continue its work over the next five years. Visit [ccc.cochrane.org](http://ccc.cochrane.org) for more information. The list has also been made available in a 'funders' box' on the Collaboration's homepage.

In the coming weeks, I will be contacting the

entity staff who completed the Monitoring and Registration Committee (MaRC) financial forms for their entities, to seek permission to use their funders' logos on [cochrane.org](http://cochrane.org). I will also ask three or four entities some more detailed questions about their funders (why funders fund them, what funders expect them to do, etc.), with the aim of creating a 'funder spotlight' page on the website. The aim of each of these measures is to improve, and make more accessible, information on the Collaboration's funding, in order that our funders know how much we appreciate their support, and so Cochrane

groups can be armed with the information they need when approaching new funders, or applying for funding renewals.

In addition to the information made available on [cochrane.org](http://cochrane.org), you are always welcome to contact me ([ljones@cochrane.org](mailto:ljones@cochrane.org)), if you have specific questions about the Collaboration's funding, or suggestions for improving the available information.

*Lucie Jones, The Cochrane Collaboration  
Secretariat, [ljones@cochrane.org](mailto:ljones@cochrane.org)*

## Finnair discontinues sale of EMRs

I was inspired by the lead item in the previous issue of Cochrane News to suggest to our national airline Finnair that they too should get rid of Electronic mosquito repellents. I just received a reply from Finnair that due

to my email (in which I referred both to Cochrane News and the review itself), they have decided to discontinue the sale of EMRs on their flights. So that's one small electronic step for a small Cochranite and

another small step for the onward march of evidence!

*Jani Ruotsalainen, Occupational Health Field  
[jani.ruotsalainen@ttl.fi](mailto:jani.ruotsalainen@ttl.fi)*

## Steering Group renames sub-groups

The Steering Group decided at its March meeting in Auckland to rename two of its sub-groups: the Executive is now the Operations and Finance Committee (OFC); the Monitoring and Registration Group is now the Monitoring and Registration Committee (MaRC).

The address [exec@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:exec@lists.cochrane.org) has changed to [ofc@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:ofc@lists.cochrane.org). Emails addressed to [exec@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:exec@lists.cochrane.org) will be automatically forwarded to the new address, but for a limited period only. The OFC members are Lorne Becker, Lisa Bero, Jonathan Craig (Convenor), Donna Gillies, Jini Hetherington, Julian Higgins, Sophie Hill, Lucie Jones, Nick Royle, Mary Ellen Schaafsma, David Tovey and Katrina Williams.

The address [mrg@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:mrg@lists.cochrane.org) has changed to [marc@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:marc@lists.cochrane.org). Emails addressed to [mrg@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:mrg@lists.cochrane.org) will be automatically forwarded to the new address, but for a limited period only.

Please contact Claire Allen with questions.

*Claire Allen*  
The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat  
[callen@cochrane.org](mailto:callen@cochrane.org)

## Methods Groups' email changes

- [Methods@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:Methods@lists.cochrane.org) has changed to [methods-groups@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:methods-groups@lists.cochrane.org).
- A new Methods Board has been established, involving people with formal methods roles in the Collaboration. Its new email address is [methods-board@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:methods-board@lists.cochrane.org), but please note this list is intended for use by Methods Board members only.
- A new Methods Executive has been established, comprising a subset of the Methods Board. The new address is [methods-exec@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:methods-exec@lists.cochrane.org).
- The committee formerly called the CoEds-Methods Working Group has been renamed the Methods Application and Review Standards (MARS) Working Group. Its new email address is [mars@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:mars@lists.cochrane.org). Please note this list is intended for use by MARS

Working Group members only.

- The Handbook Advisory Group (HAG) has been disbanded, with its responsibilities being assumed by either the Methods Board or a new Handbook Editorial Advisory Panel. The list [hag@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:hag@lists.cochrane.org) has been closed down. A new list has been created: [heap@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:heap@lists.cochrane.org), but please note this list is intended for use by HEAP members only.

We are working on a Cochrane Policy Manual update to describe these new structures. If you have any questions before this is completed, please don't hesitate to contact Julian Higgins.

*Julian Higgins*  
The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group  
[julian.higgins@mrc-bsu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:julian.higgins@mrc-bsu.cam.ac.uk)

## Behavioral Medicine Field Deregistered

The Behavioral Medicine Field has been deregistered because funding is no longer available. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Karina Davidson and Louise Falzon for their hard work in directing and supporting the activities of the Behavioral Medicine Field since 2006. The Monitoring and Registration Committee would also like to thank Karina and Louise for trying to secure funding, and latterly trying to find an alternative to deregistration; unfortunately, this was not successful.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

*Karen New and Hans van der Wouden*  
Monitoring and Registration Committee  
[karennew@optusnet.com.au](mailto:karennew@optusnet.com.au)

## New Chair of Co-convenors of the Campbell and Cochrane Economics Methods Group

Luke Vale has become the new Chair of Co-Convenors of the Campbell and Cochrane Economics Methods Group (CCEMG). Luke is Professor of Health Technology Assessment in the Health Economics Research Unit and the Health Services Research Unit, University of Aberdeen. He has been a Co-Convenor of the CCEMG since 1998, alongside roles as

an Economist Advisor to both the Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group and the Incontinence Group, and is a co-author of several Cochrane reviews.

Luke replaces Miranda Mugford, who has stepped down due to her impending retirement from the University of East Anglia. The CCEMG would like to thank Miranda for her leadership and many contributions to the CCEMG over almost twenty years since its inception, and especially since its formal registration as a Methods Group of The Cochrane Collaboration in 1998. We are also very pleased that Miranda will continue to contribute to the work of the CCEMG as a Co-Convenor. We are sure all of Miranda's many Cochrane friends and colleagues will join us in wishing her all the best for her retirement.

Please email [i.shemilt@uea.ac.uk](mailto:i.shemilt@uea.ac.uk) to contact the CCEMG.

*Ian Shemilt*  
Campbell and Cochrane Economics Methods Group  
[i.shemilt@uea.ac.uk](mailto:i.shemilt@uea.ac.uk)

## Collaboration's impact on research reports and the value of systematic reviews

The *Lancet* has announced it will task authors of research reports submitted after 1 August 2010 to report their own, up-to-date systematic review or cite a recent systematic review done by others. Please see the editorial at [http://www.lancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)61001-X/fulltext](http://www.lancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)61001-X/fulltext). This is important recognition of systematic reviews as a key element in understanding the findings from all new research.

The *Lancet's* decision was influenced by work done over the last 12 years at the UK Cochrane Centre, together with Iain Chalmers of the James Lind Initiative. We hope this policy will lead to even greater prominence of systematic reviews across the research literature.

*Mike Clarke and Sally Hopewell*  
[mclarke@cochrane.ac.uk](mailto:mclarke@cochrane.ac.uk)  
[shopewell@cochrane.ac.uk](mailto:shopewell@cochrane.ac.uk)  
UK Cochrane Centre

## Expression of Interest

The Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group (CMSG) Editorial Board is calling for expressions of interest to establish a satellite editorial base of the Musculoskeletal Group.

Cochrane systematic reviews are a key element in improving the quality and accessibility of the evidence to support healthcare decision-making. The CMSG ([cochrane.sk.org](http://cochrane.sk.org)) prepares systematic reviews of interventions for the prevention, treatment, or rehabilitation of a wide range of musculoskeletal conditions including rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, gout, systemic lupus erythematosus, pediatric rheumatology, soft tissue rheumatism, spondylo-arthropathy, systemic sclerosis, and vasculitis.

The CMSG was established in 1993 at the University of Ottawa, Canada, and in 2005, a second CMSG editorial base was established at Cabrini Institute, Melbourne, Australia. The CMSG currently has 134 published reviews, one published overview and 77

published protocols. In addition, 82 of the CMSG reviews need to be updated, using the standard Cochrane criteria of updating the search in a two-year period. The volume of reviews and protocols currently in editorial process as well as the momentum task of updating out-of-date reviews has prompted the CMSG editorial board to put out this call for proposals for individuals interested in establishing a satellite CMSG editorial base.

The roles and responsibilities of a CMSG satellite editorial base will include:

1. Supporting the current CMSG editorial base in the editorial process of the production and updating of Cochrane reviews.
2. Increasing capacity to prepare and maintain Cochrane reviews through training.
3. Facilitating the dissemination of the results of relevant Cochrane reviews to

clinicians, consumers and policy makers.

We are seeking individuals with a strong link to the Cochrane community and an established record of systematic review and other research in musculoskeletal disorders. It is expected the successful applicant will have or find funding to establish the satellite base, but the CMSG editorial board will be pleased to support any efforts to obtain funding for the satellite base.

Expressions of interest should be of no more than two pages in length. Applicants should include their CV, a description of their Cochrane experience, any other relevant expertise, and demonstrate sufficient expertise and experience in managing resources effectively and achieving measurable targets.

Please send applications or any enquiries to Lara Maxwell, Managing Editor, CMSG (Ottawa) [lmaxwell@uottawa.ca](mailto:lmaxwell@uottawa.ca).

## Advisory groups are now committees

The Steering Group decided at its recent meeting in Auckland to rename its advisory groups to committees: the Colloquium Policy Advisory Group is therefore now the Colloquium Policy Advisory Committee (CPAC). Please update your address books with the following change:

The mailing list [cpag@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:cpag@lists.cochrane.org) has changed to [cpac@lists.cochrane.org](mailto:cpac@lists.cochrane.org).

CPAC members are:

- Jordi Pardo (Co-Convenor)
- Steve McDonald (Co-Convenor)
- Gerd Antes
- Alvaro Atallah
- Edwin Chan
- Miranda Cumpston
- Robert Dellavalle
- Kay Dickersin
- Jini Hetherington
- Sally Hopewell
- Vicky Koehler
- Britta Lang
- Paula Marchionda
- Chris Mavergames
- Alain Mayhew
- Juliane Ried
- Caroline Rouse
- Nick Royle
- Mary Ellen Schaafsma
- Roberta Scherer
- Barbara Warren
- Liz Whamond
- Mingming Zhang

If you have any questions about this change, please don't hesitate to contact Jini Hetherington.

*Jini Hetherington*  
The Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat  
[jbetherington@cochrane.org](mailto:jbetherington@cochrane.org)

Cochrane News is published by the Canadian Cochrane Centre. To subscribe, contact your nearest Cochrane Centre at [cochrane.org/contact/country](http://cochrane.org/contact/country).

**Editor:**

Lori Tarbett, Canada  
*Communications Specialist, Canadian Cochrane Centre*  
+1 613 562 5800 ext. 2927  
[ltarbett@uottawa.ca](mailto:ltarbett@uottawa.ca)

**Advisory Committee:**

Lorne Becker, USA  
*Co-Chair, Steering Group*

Jonathan Craig, Australia  
*Co-Chair, Steering Group*

Jini Hetherington, UK  
*Administrator, Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat*

Lucie Jones, UK  
*Cochrane Collaboration Secretariat*

Nancy Owens, UK  
*Website Committee Representative*

Elizabeth Pienaar, South Africa  
*Trials Search Co-ordinator Representative*

Megan Prictor, Australia  
*Managing Editor Representative*

Jacob Riis, Denmark  
*Centre Representative*

Mary Ellen Schaafsma, Canada  
*Executive Director, Canadian Cochrane Centre*

Erin Ueffing, Canada  
*Methods Group Representative*

Liu Xuemei, China  
*Methods Group Representative*

Janet Yarrow, USA  
*Consumer Representative*

*Cochrane News* is the international newsletter of The Cochrane Collaboration (UK Registered Charity No. 1045921 registered in England No. 3044323). The views expressed are those of the authors, and are not necessarily shared by The Cochrane Collaboration, the Editor, or the Advisory Committee.



**THE COCHRANE  
COLLABORATION®**

# COCHRANE NEWS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

### First Joint Colloquium – Campbell and Cochrane

Join us for the First Joint Colloquium of the Campbell and Cochrane Collaborations  
18 – 22 October 2010  
Keystone, Colorado, USA  
Register at: [regonline.com/colloquium2010](http://regonline.com/colloquium2010)

Robert Dellavalle  
+011 303.399.8020 ext. 2475  
[Robert.Dellavalle@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Robert.Dellavalle@ucdenver.edu)



### Advocacy in the Era of Evidence

An International Summit for Consumer Advocates  
Sunday 17 October 2010  
Keystone, Colorado, USA  
Scientists, Researchers, Policymakers Welcome!  
Registration is now open! Share this Summit flyer!



Questions? Please contact Janie Gordon: [jlordon@jhsph.edu](mailto:jlordon@jhsph.edu)

### 16th Annual Meeting of UK and Ireland-based Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration

Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 March 2011  
Europa Hotel, Belfast  
[cochrane.ac.uk](http://cochrane.ac.uk)

### Injuries Group publishes 100th review

The Injuries Group published its 100th review in Issue 5, 2010 of *The Cochrane Library*. The Group thanks its authors, editors and peer referees for their contribution to the Group since its inception in 1997.

### Airways Group bids farewell to Toby Lasserson

Toby Lasserson is moving on. After 10 years of very productive work with the Airways Group, Toby is going down the road to work with David Tovey at the Cochrane Editorial Unit. We wish him well in his new post, and

welcome Emma Welsh, who is taking Toby's place as our new Managing Editor.

*Chris Cates, Airways Group*  
[ccates@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:ccates@sgul.ac.uk)

### Cochrane News submission requirements

In order to guarantee your submission is included, please ensure:

- submissions arrive in a Word document.
- graphics/photos are sent as attachments.
- full web addresses are provided and not submitted as embedded links.
- the name of the author with his/her primary Cochrane group and email address is included at the end of the submission.

- larger articles and short announcements are limited to 500 and 100 words respectively (unless otherwise necessary).
- submissions arrive by the given due date.
- articles are sent to [cochrane@uottawa.ca](mailto:cochrane@uottawa.ca)

Lori Tarbett,  
*Cochrane News Editor*  
[ltarbett@uottawa.ca](mailto:ltarbett@uottawa.ca)